



PRESS RELEASE
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ARMED DRUG DEALER RECEIVES MORE THAN 17 YEARS IN PRISON

Jacksonville, Florida - This week U.S. District Judge Harvey E. Schlesinger, sentenced Anthony Johnson to more than 17 years' imprisonment for firearm and narcotics offenses. A jury found Anthony Johnson guilty on January 13, 2005.

According to court documents, Anthony Johnson was in possession of more than 30 grams of crack cocaine and two firearms. Johnson had an extensive criminal record including three prior convictions for drug offenses. The longest sentence Johnson had received prior to today was nine months in jail. Johnson, 29 years old, claimed to be the father of 15 children. The juvenile mother of one of his children testified on Johnson's behalf at his trial.

The case represents the culmination of a cooperative effort between the United States Attorney's Office, Jacksonville Sheriff's Office, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives and the State Attorney's Office for the Fourth Judicial Circuit. This is another case prosecuted as a part the Department of Justice program "Project Safe

Neighborhoods” - a nationwide gun violence reduction initiative with strong support from the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives. United States Attorney Paul I. Perez is coordinating the cooperative effort here in the Middle District of Florida with federal, state and local law enforcement officials. The objective is to reduce violent crime by locating and seizing unlawfully possessed guns and then swiftly prosecuting the offenders using both federal and state gun laws.

The case was investigated by the Jacksonville Sheriff's Office and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives. The case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Frank Talbot.